

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-92 (Cancelled)

93 (Currently amended). A ~~monoclonal antibody~~  
~~immobilized on a~~ matrix or substrate on which a monoclonal  
antibody is immobilized, said monoclonal antibody ~~which~~  
specifically ~~recognizes~~ recognizing IGIF or IL-18 to adsorb said  
IGIF or IL-18 and to desorb it from said matrix or substrate in a  
yield of nearly 100% when the pH around ~~the~~ said monoclonal  
antibody is changed, said IGIF or IL-18 mainly showing a single  
protein band ~~with~~ that has an activity of inducing interferon- $\gamma$   
production at a position corresponding to  $19,000 \pm 5,000$  daltons  
when electrophoresed in a sodium dodecylsulfate (SDS)  
polyacrylamide gel free of reducing agent, and having the  
following physiochemical properties of (1) to (4):

- (1) Molecular weight  
 $19,000 \pm 5,000$  daltons on gel filtration and sodium  
dodecylsulfate polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis  
(SDS-PAGE);
- (2) Isoelectric point (pI)  
 $4.8 \pm 1.0$  on chromatofocusing;

(3) Biological activity

Inducing the interferon- $\gamma$  production by  
immunocompetent cells; and

(4) Amino acid sequence

Comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2,  
wherein Xaa is Met or Thr.

Claims 94-98 (Cancelled).

99 (Currently amended). The ~~monoclonal antibody~~ matrix  
or substrate of claim 93, ~~which~~ wherein the monoclonal antibody  
is labeled with a radiolabel, an enzyme, or a fluorophore.

100 (Currently amended). The ~~monoclonal antibody~~  
matrix or substrate of claim 93, which is capable of inhibiting  
the biological activity of IGIF or IL-18.

Claims 101-103 (Cancelled).

104 (Currently amended). A method for determining the  
presence of IGIF or IL-18 in a sample, comprising the steps of:  
contacting a sample suspected to contain IGIF or IL-18  
with a ~~monoclonal antibody~~ matrix or substrate, on which a  
monoclonal antibody is immobilized, according to claim 93 under  
conditions suitable to promote the specific binding of the

monoclonal antibody to IGIF or IL-18 to form an immune complex;  
and

detecting any such immune complex which is so formed.

Claim 105 (Cancelled).

106(Previously presented). A method according to claim 104, wherein the monoclonal antibody is labeled with a radiolabel, an enzyme, or a fluorophore.

107(Previously presented). A method according to claim 104, further comprising the step of quantifying the amount of IGIF or IL-18 present in the sample.

Claims 108-115 (Cancelled).

116(Currently amended). A method of inhibiting the biological activity of IGIF or IL-18, comprising the step of contacting a ~~monoclonal antibody~~ matrix or substrate according to claim 100 with the IGIF or IL-18.

Claims 117-119 (Cancelled).

120(Currently amended). The ~~monoclonal antibody~~ matrix or substrate, on which a monoclonal antibody is immobilized, according to claim 93, said monoclonal antibody being obtained by using, as an antigen, IGIF or IL-18, which has been extracted and collected from the liver of a mouse previously

challenged with *Corynebacterium parvum* and has the following physiochemical properties of (1) to (4):

- (1) Molecular weight  
19,000±5,000 daltons on gel filtration and sodium dodecyl sulfate polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE);
- (2) Isoelectric point (pI)  
4.8±1.0 on chromatofocusing;
- (3) Biological activity  
Inducing interferon- $\gamma$  production by immunocompetent cells; and
- (4) Amino acid sequence  
Comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2,

wherein Xaa is Met or Thr.

121(New). A means for detecting IGIF or IL-18, comprising a matrix or substrate according to claim 93 for use in detecting said IGIF or said IL-18 in a sample in the range of 50 to 2,000 pg/ml of said IGIF or said IL-18.